

Chapter 12

GLOSSARY and ACRONYMS

A

Abatement: Reduction; used to describe mitigation of noise.

Accessibility: The ease with which a site or facility may be reached by passengers and others necessary to the facility's intended function. Also, the extent to which a facility is usable by persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users.

Action Alternative: An alternative that proposes some management action, as contrasted to the No Action (No Project) Alternative.

Actual Use: The amount of use that actually occurs.

Adverse: Negative.

Affected Environment: The physical, biological, social, and economic setting within which human activity is proposed.

Air Pollution: A general term that refers to one or more chemical substances that degrade the quality of the atmosphere.

Alignment: The horizontal and vertical route of a transit corridor.

Alluvium: Sedimentary materials deposited by running water.

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act: California law passed in 1972 to prevent construction of buildings used for human occupancy on surface traces of active faults.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Federal regulation establishing legal requirements for accessibility.

Aquifer: Subsurface geologic unit (rock or sediment) that contains and transmits groundwater.

At Grade: At ground surface level; used to describe roadways, river crossings, and track alignments.

Attainment: An air basin is considered to be in attainment for a particular pollutant if it meets the federal or state standards set for that pollutant. See also **Maintenance, Nonattainment**.

A-Weighted Sound Level: A measure of sound intensity that is weighted to approximate the response of the human ear, so it describes the way sound will affect people in the vicinity of a noise source.

B

Baseline: Foundation or basis to use for comparison purposes.

Beneficial Visual Impact: Impact resulting if a project alternative eliminates a dominant feature that currently detracts from scenic qualities or blocks vistas in the landscape.

BTU: British Thermal Unit, equal to the amount of heat required to raise 1 pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit at 1 atmosphere of pressure.

Buttressing: An action that provides support or stability to a structure.

C

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): “Legislation enacted in 1970 to protect the quality of the environment for the people of California by requiring public agencies and decision-makers to document and consider the environmental consequences of their actions. CEQA is the state equivalent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).”

Capital Cost: The total cost of acquiring an asset or constructing a project.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): A colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally in the earth’s atmosphere; significant quantities are also emitted into the air by fossil fuel combustion.

Carbon Monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless gas that is generated in the urban environment primarily by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels in motor vehicles.

CEQA: See **California Environmental Quality Act**.

CNEL: Community Noise Equivalent Level. A 24-hour Leq that has been adjusted to add a “penalty” of 5 dBA for evening noise (between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.) and 10 dBA for nighttime noise (between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.).

Community Cohesion: The degree to which residents have a sense of belonging to their neighborhood, a level of commitment to the community, or a strong attachment to neighbors, groups, and institutions, usually as a result of continued association over time.

Congestion Management Plan: A planning document that addresses strategies for reducing traffic congestion.

Connectivity: Describes the degree of “connectedness” of a system such as a transit network, or the ease with which passengers can move from one point to another on the network.

Construction: Any activity that directly alters the environment, excluding surveying or mapping.

Corridor: A geographic belt or band that follows the general route of a rail system.

Criteria Pollutants: Refers to pollutants for which federal and state air quality standards have been established: carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur oxides (SO_x), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ozone (O₃), particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀), particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb).

Cultural Resources: Resources related to the tangible and intangible aspects of cultural systems, living and dead, that are valued by a given culture or contain information about the culture. They include, but are not limited to, sites, structures, buildings, districts, and objects associated with or representative of people, cultures, and human activities and events.

Cumulative Impact: (1) As defined by CEQA, the result of two or more individual impacts which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. (2) As defined by NEPA, and impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Cut and Cover: Construction technique in which a trench is excavated, infrastructure is installed, and the trench is closed.

Cut and Fill: Construction technique involving excavation or grading followed by placement and compaction of fill material.

Cut Slope: A slope that is shaped by excavation or grading. See also **Fill slope**.

D

Decibel (dB): A logarithmic measurement of noise intensity.

Dewatering: The process of removing water from an area or substance, such as fill material.

Disturbance: A discrete event, either natural or human induced, that causes a change in the condition of an ecological system.

E

Easement: An interest in land owned by another individual or organization that entitles its holder to a specific limited use.

Ecosystem: A system formed by the interaction of living organisms, including people, with their environment.

Emergent: (1) Arising naturally. (2) Of vegetation, rooted in periodically or continuously inundated substrate, but with a portion of the plant extending above the water.

Eminent Domain: A jurisdiction or agency's legal right to take private property for public use in exchange for fair compensation.

Endangered Species: Any species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as being in danger of or threatened with extinction throughout all or most of its range.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): A detailed informational document that analyzes a project's potential significant effects and identifies mitigation measures and reasonable alternatives to avoid the significant effects. This document is part of the CEQA environmental review process.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): A detailed informational document that analyzes a project's potential significant effects and identifies mitigation measures and reasonable alternatives to avoid the significant effects. This document is part of the NEPA environmental review process.

Environmental Justice: Identifying and addressing the potential for disproportionately high and adverse effects of programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.

Erosion: Process by which earth materials are worn down by the action of flowing water, ice, or wind.

Ethnicity: A grouping or category of people based on shared cultural traits such as ancestral origin, language, custom, or social attitude.

F

Fault: A fracture in the earth's lithosphere (brittle rocky shell) along which movement has occurred.

Feasible: Capable of being implemented.

Feeder route: Branch routes that feed into main (arterial) routes.

Fiber Optic Cable System: A data transmission technology that relies on light rather than electricity, conveying data through a cable consisting of a central glass core surrounded by layers of plastic.

Fill Slope: A slope shaped by the placement and compaction of loose “fill” materials, which may be reused from elsewhere on the construction site, or imported.

Fiscally or Financially Constrained Plans: Plans that are limited by the foreseen availability of project funding in a region.

Footprint: Area of the ground surface covered by a facility, or affected by construction activities.

G

General Plan: A planning document, usually at the city or county level, that encapsulates policies for land use and development over a specified period of time. A general plan may be supplemented by specific plans that address land use and development policies for specific portions of a planning jurisdiction, such as historic districts or areas slated for redevelopment.

Geographic Information System (GIS): An information management system designed to store and analyze data referenced by spatial or geographic coordinates.

GIS: See **Geographic Information System**.

Grade Crossing: The intersection of a railroad and a highway at the same elevation (grade); an intersection of two or more highways; an intersection of two railroads.

Grade-Separated: At different elevations; on separate levels.

Greenhouse Gases: A class of air pollutants believed to contribute to the “greenhouse” global warming effect, including nitrogen oxides (NOx) hydrocarbons (HC), and carbon dioxide (CO2).

Groundwater: Water contained and transmitted through open spaces within rock and sediment below the ground surface.

Growth Inducement: Contribution to the rate or extent of development in an area.

H

Habitat: An environment where plants or animals naturally occur; an ecological setting used by animals for a particular purpose, such as roosting habitat, breeding habitat, etc.

Headway: The time between buses, trains, or other transit vehicles at a given point. For example, a 15-minute headway means that one bus arrives every 15 minutes.

Herbaceous: Describes plants that have little or no woody tissue. Herbaceous plants typically survive for only a single growing season.

Heritage Resources: An alternate term for cultural resources used in some planning documents. See **Cultural Resources**.

High-Speed Steel-Wheel-on-Steel-Rail Train: An improvement of traditional railroad passenger technology that has been designed to operate at speeds of 100 to 150 mph (160 to 240 kph) on existing rail infrastructure.

High-Speed Train: Refers to a train designed to operate safely and reliably at speeds near 200 mph (350 kph).

High Visual Impacts: Impacts sustained if features of a project alternative are very obvious, such that they begin to dominate the landscape and detract from the existing landscape characteristics or scenic qualities.

Hydrocarbons: A wide variety of organic compounds, including methane (CH₄), emitted principally from the storage, handling, and combustion of fossil fuels.

I

Impact: A change the condition or function or an environmental resource or environmental value as a result of human activity. Also called effect.

In Lieu of: Instead of or in place of.

Indigenous Species: A native species; any plant or animal species that occurs naturally in a wilderness area and was not introduced, deliberately or accidentally, by humans.

Infrastructure: The facilities required for a societal function or service; e.g., transportation infrastructure, utilities infrastructure.

Initial Study: An environmental study carried out in compliance with CEQA, with the goal of evaluating whether a proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts on the environment.

Insertion Loss: The actual noise-level reduction at a specific receiver due to construction of a noise barrier between the noise source (e.g., traffic) and the receiver.

In-Situ: In the original or natural position.

Intermodal: Describes transportation that involves more than one type of carrier during a single journey.

Inversion: A region where atmospheric temperature increases rather than decreasing with height, suppressing atmospheric mixing and tending to trap pollutants near the ground surface, where their effects on health and materials are greater.

Investment-Grade Ridership Forecast: Ridership forecast that is sufficiently detailed and reliable to permit responsible decision-making about capital expenditures.

K

Kilo: Prefix meaning 1 thousand.

L

Landscape Unit: An area of distinct, but not necessarily homogenous, visual character.

Landslide: Movement of earth or rock materials downslope under the influence of gravity.

Land Use Compatibility Assessment: an assessment of the compatibility of a proposed project or land use with existing and projected land uses in nearby areas, based on the sensitivity of various land uses to changes and the impact of these changes on activities.

Lead (Pb): A stable element that persists and accumulates both in the environment and in humans and animals, and can have toxic effects.

Lead Agency: The public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project, and is thus responsible for preparing environmental review documents in compliance with CEQA and/or NEPA.

Leq: A measure of the average noise level during a specified period of time.

Leq(h), dBA: Equivalent or average noise level for the noisiest hour, expressed in **A-weighted decibels**.

Less than Significant: In CEQA usage, describes an impact that is not sufficiently adverse, intense, or prolonged to require **mitigation**.

Level of Service (LOS): A rating using qualitative measures that characterize operational conditions within a traffic stream and their perception by motorists and passengers.

Liquefaction: A type of ground failure in which soils or sediments lose their internal cohesion, cease to behave as a solid, and flow like a liquid.

Logarithmic Scale: A measurement in which the ratio of successive intervals is not equal to 1 (which is typical for linear scales) but is some common factor larger than the previous interval (a typical ratio is 10, so that the marks on the scale read: 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10000, etc. Logarithmic scales are useful for graphing values that have a very large range.

Low Visual Impacts: Impacts sustained if features of a project alternative are consistent with the existing line, form, texture, and color of other elements in the landscape and do not stand out.

M

Magnetic Levitation (Maglev): A high-speed train technology that relies on attractive or repulsive magnetic forces to lift and propel the train along a guideway.

Mainline: A principal highway, exclusive of connectors, ramps, etc.

Maintenance: An air basin is considered to be in maintenance for a given pollutant if it was formerly in nonattainment but is now meeting the established standards for that pollutant. See also **Attainment, Nonattainment**.

Major Investment Study (MIS): A study that evaluates project alternatives for their ability to solve an area's transportation problems.

Master Plan: A comprehensive planning document intended to guide the long-range growth and development of a community or region, or the long-term management and use of a parkland.

Mean High-Water Mark: The elevation reached by the water surface at the mean (average) high water level (average high tide elevation or average flood elevation), often indicated by physical characteristics such as erosion, lines of vegetation, or changes in type of vegetation.

Medium Visual Impact: Impacts sustained if features of a project alternative are readily discernable but do not dominate the landscape or detract from existing dominant features.

Midden: Refuse accumulation associated with prehistoric use of a site or area.

Mitigation: Action or measure undertaken to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, or rectify the adverse impacts of a project, practice, or activity.

Modal: A transit system defined on the basis of specific rights-of-way, technologies, and operational features.

Monitoring: The collection of information to determine the effects of resource management and to identify changing resource conditions or needs.

Monoculture: The cultivation of a single product to the exclusion of other uses of land.

N

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): Federal standards stipulating the allowable ambient concentrations of specific criteria pollutants.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): “Federal legislation requiring federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of major federal projects or decisions, to share information with the public, to identify and assess reasonable alternatives, and to coordinate efforts with other planning and environmental reviews taking place.”

Nitrogen Oxides (NOx): A class of pollutant compounds that include nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and nitric oxide (NO), both of which are emitted by motor vehicles. See **Criterial Pollutants**.

No Action: Under NEPA, refers to an alternative under which no action would be taken (no infrastructure would be built and no new management or operational practices would be instituted). See **No Project**.

No Project: Under CEQA, refers to an alternative under which no action would be taken (no infrastructure would be built and no new management or operational practices would be instituted). See **No Action**.

Nonattainment: An air basin is considered to be in nonattainment for a particular pollutant if it is exceeding federal or state standards for that pollutant. See also **Attainment, Maintenance**.

Non-Electrified Steel-Wheel-on-Steel-Rail Train: Conventional intercity diesel locomotive train equipment (e.g., Amtrak).

Nonpoint Source Pollution: Pollution that cannot be traced to a single source, but collects from a wide area. Examples include pesticides or fertilizers that wash into rivers or percolate through the soil into groundwater.

Notice of Intent (NOI): Formal notice stating that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed project, published in the Federal Register by the federal lead agency.

Notice of Preparation (NOP): Formal notice stating that an environmental impact report will be prepared for a proposed project, issued by the state lead agency.

NPL/Superfund List: Federal list of sites that have been identified as posing an immediate public health hazard and where an immediate response is necessary.

O

Ordinary High-Water Mark: The line on the shore of a body of water established by the fluctuation of water.

Ozone (O₃): A photochemical oxidant that is a major cause of lung and eye irritation in urban environments.

P

Paleontological: Related to the study of life in past geologic time.

Particulate Matter: Liquid and solid particles of a wide range of sizes and compositions; of particular concern for air quality are particles smaller than or equal to 10 microns and 2.5 microns in size (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} respectively).

Point Source Pollution: Pollution that can be traced to a single source. An example is a smokestack at a factory.

Poverty Level: For a family of four, the poverty level is defined as a income of \$16,700 or less in 1999 dollars.

Practicable: See **Feasible**.

Preferred Alternative: The alternative identified as the optimal solution by the lead agency.

Program-Level: Refers to a CEQA or NEPA environmental review that covers the broad spectrum of a large, complex, regionally extensive effort comprising a number of smaller, regionally focused projects or phases.

Project-Level: Refers to more detailed environmental analysis focusing on a single project that is part of a larger program.

Public Transportation: Includes workers bus, trolley bus, streetcar or trolley car, subway or elevated, railroad, ferryboat, and taxicab service.

Purpose and Need: The reason(s) why a project is undertaken, and the need(s) it is intended to meet or fulfill.

R

Reactive Organic Gases (ROG): Reactive hydrocarbon pollutants.

Regional Transportation Improvement Plan: A capital listing of all transportation projects proposed over a six-year period for a given region. The regional transportation improvement program (RTIP) is prepared to implement projects and programs listed in the RTP and is developed in compliance with state and federal requirements.

Regional Transportation Plan: A long-range (20+ year) transportation plan. The regional transportation plan (RTP) identifies major challenges as well as potential opportunities associated with growth, transportation finances, the future of airports in the region, and impending transportation system deficiencies that could result from growth anticipated in the region. There are typically two components of the RTP, a financially constrained and financially unconstrained version. The financially constrained version of the RTP includes projects and programs that fit within existing and planned funding sources.

Richter Scale: A logarithmic scale measuring the severity of earthquakes, based on the magnitude of ground motion.

Ridership: The number of people who ride public transportation system.

Right-of-Way: A legal right of passage over another person's ground. In transit usage, refers to the corridor along a roadway or track alignment that is controlled by a transit or transportation agency/authority.

Riparian: Relating to, living, or located on the bank of a natural watercourse, lake, or tidewater.

Riprap: Armoring consisting of randomly placed rock or concrete, used to strengthen an embankment or protect it from erosion.

Rolling Stock: Wheeled railway vehicles.

Ruderal: Weedy vegetation, commonly including or dominated by introduced species, characteristic of areas where native vegetation has been disturbed or removed.

S

Scenic Corridor: Corridor with landscapes and vistas of high scenic quality.

Scoping: A process used under both CEQA and NEPA to determine the coverage and content of an environmental impact report or environmental impact study.

Screenline: An imaginary line across parallel roadways.

Section 4(f): Refers to provisions originally enacted as Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 C.F.R. 771.135) and subsequently codified in 49 U.S.C., Subtitle I, Section 303(c). The “Section 4(f)” provisions address the potential for conflicts between transportation needs and the protection of lands for recreational use and resource conservation by regulating the use of publicly owned parkland, recreation areas, and historic sites. Specifically, they prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from approving any program or project that would require the use of any publicly owned land from a public park, recreation area, wildlife or waterfowl refuge, or land of an historic site of national significance as determined by the officials having jurisdiction over these lands, unless there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the use of these lands. In addition, a proposed program or project must include all possible planning to minimize harm resulting from the proposed use.

Section 6(f): State and local governments often obtain grants through the to acquire or make improvements to parks and recreation areas (16 U.S.C. § 460-4 through 460-11, September 3, 1964, as amended 1965, 1968, 1970, 1972–1974, 1976–1981, 1983, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1993–1996). Refers to Section 6(f) of Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964, which prohibits the conversion to a non-recreational purpose of property acquired or developed with funds granted through the Act without the approval of the National Park Service. Section 6(f) directs the Department of the Interior to ensure that replacement lands of equal value (monetary), location, and usefulness are provided as conditions to such conversions. Consequently, where such conversions of Section 6(f) lands are proposed for transportation projects, replacement lands must be provided.

Sedimentary Rock: Rock resulting from the consolidation of sediment.

Seiche: Oscillation or “sloshing” of water in a lake, bay, or other enclosed body as a result of landsliding or seismic groundshaking.

Senate Bill 45: Bill that instituted consolidation of various funding programs into the STIP and increased accountability for programming and delivery of STIP projects to the regions around the state and the various Caltrans’ districts.

Sensitivity Analysis: An analysis that assesses how sensitive the outcomes predicted by modeling are to changes in different model inputs (assumptions or variables).

Shadow impact: shadow impact ranking would be high if a new (not existing) elevated structure were within 75 ft (23 m) of residential or open space, natural areas, or parkland.

Significant: In CEQA usage, describes an impact that is sufficiently adverse, intense, or prolonged to require **mitigation**.

South Coast Air Quality Management District: The regional regulatory agency with the primary responsibility for improving air quality in the South Coast Air Basin.

State Implementation Plan: Statewide plan for complying with the federal Clean Air Act. The State Implementation Plan (SIP) consists of narrative, rules, and agreements that California will use to cleanup polluted areas.

State Transportation Improvement Program: A multi-year capital improvement program of transportation projects on and off the state highway system, funded with revenues from the State Highway Account and other funding sources. STIP programming generally occurs every two years.

Strike-Slip Fault: A fault along which the dominant direction of movement is parallel to the fault trace (the expression of the fault on the ground surface).

Stub End: A track connection with a difficult curved configuration.

Subsidence: Sinking or lowering of the ground surface.

Sulfur Oxides (SOx): Sulfur-oxygen compounds that include the important **criteria pollutants** sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and sulfur trioxide (SO₃).

T

Take: As defined in Section 3 of the federal Endangered Species Act, “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.”

Tiering: Refers to the practice of addressing general issues in broader environmental impact reports or statements such as **program-level** documents and providing more detailed analyses in subsequent (typically **project-level**) documents that “tier off” the initial broad analysis and incorporate it by reference.

Total Organic Gases (TOG): A pollutant classification that includes all **hydrocarbons**, both reactive and non-reactive.

Trainset: A complete unit of **rolling stock**.

Transit-Dependent Population: The population over the age of 16 (workers) who use **public transportation** as a means of traveling to and from work.

Transit Node: A connection or terminal on a transit network.

Transportation Demand Management: The operation and coordination of various transportation system policies and programs to provide the most efficient and effective use of existing transportation services and facilities.

Transportation system management: actions that improve the operation and coordination transportation services and facilities to realize the most efficient use of the existing transportation system.

Travel Time: The time spent on the road, in the air, or on a train from a place of origin to a place of destination. Total travel time includes the time required to reach a station or an airport, time spent waiting for the next scheduled train or flight, time spent getting to the boarding area, time spent checking and retrieving luggage, time spent getting a rental car or taxi, as well as time spent to reach the final destination.

Tributary Watercourse: A stream feeding a larger stream or a lake.

Trinomial: An alphanumeric abbreviation for a previously identified historic or prehistoric resource, such as CA-ORA-1352, representing the state (e.g., California or CA-), the county (e.g., Orange or -ORA-), and a unique number assigned by the State Historic Preservation Office (such as -1352).

Tsunamis: Waves that travel in the open ocean and are caused by an undersea earthquake, landslide or volcanic activity.

U

Unavoidable: In CEQA and NEPA usage, describes an impact that cannot be entirely avoided, reduced, or compensated for.

Units of Measure:

Unit	Approximate U.S. Equivalent
Length	
kilometer	0.62 mile
meter	39.37 inches
centimeter	0.39 inch
Area	
square kilometer	0.3861 square miles
hectare	2.47 acres
Capacity	
liter	1.057 quarts
Mass and Weight	
metric ton	1.102 short tons (2,204.6 pounds)
kilogram	2.2046 pounds
gram	0.035 ounce
Speed	
kilometer per hour	0.621 mile per hour

Uplift: The action of a portion of the earth's surface as it rises above adjacent areas. An area of higher elevation than surrounding areas; an area that has been uplifted.

V

V/C Ratio: Volume to capacity ratio; describes the relationship between the amount of traffic a roadway was designed to carry and the amount of traffic it actually carries. Related to the **level of service (LOS)** the roadway can provide.

Viaduct: A bridge that conveys a road or a railroad over a valley and is constructed of a series of arches supported by piers.

Viewshed: Total visible area from a single observer position, or the total visible area from multiple observer positions. Viewsheds are accumulated seen-areas from highways, trails, campgrounds, towns, cities, or other viewer locations. Examples are corridor, feature, or basin viewsheds.

Visual Resources: The natural and artificial features of a landscape that characterize its form, line, texture, and color.

Visual Unity: The visual coherence and compositional harmony of a landscape when considered as a whole.

W

Watershed: The area that contributes water to a drainage system or stream.

Weir: A small dam that restricts flow in a stream in order to raise water level, or diverts flow into a desired course.

Wetland: An area that is regularly saturated by surface water or groundwater and is characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Wildlife Corridor: A belt of habitat that is essentially free of physical barriers such as fences, walls, and development, and connects two or more larger areas of habitat, allowing wildlife to move between physically separate areas.

GLOSSARY SOURCES USED

www.155.217.58.58/cgi-bin/atdl.dll/fm/3-34.343/gloss.htm
www.apta.com/research/stats/rail/definitions.cfm
www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KCC/defn/defnsmal/fgh.htm
www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KCC/defn/defnsmal/no.htm
www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen/pub-glos.htm
www.cogsci.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/webwn
www.cogsci.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/webwn or www.windmill.co.uk/glossary.html
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/glossary.htm#E
www.dot.ca.gov/ser/glossary.htm
www.envisionutah.org/glossary.htm
www.faa.gov/arp/app600/5054a/5054a1.htm
www.fao.org/docrep/V8350E/v8350e0f.htm
www.fcit.coedu.usf.edu/network/glossary.htm
www.geology.er.usgs.gov/paleo/glossary.shtml
www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/pbrf/glossary.htm
www.inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blrailroad6.htm
www.members.tripod.com/AMRZ_Home/Glossary.html
www.Merriam-Webster
www.mortgage-rates-mortgage-rates.net/glossary.htm
www.ncat.org/neaap/resources/glossary.htm
www.octa.net/center/intro/def.asp
www.projectauditors.com/Dictionary/C.html
www.techfest.com/networking/cabling/cableglos.htm
www.tfcbooks.com/mainpage/glossary.htm
www.transweb.sjsu.edu/comglos.htm
www.ucop.edu/facil/pd/CEQA-Handbook/glossary.html
www.wave-guide.org/library/glossary.html
www.wrh.noaa.gov/Phoenix/general/glossary/
 U.S. Forest Service. 1995. Landscape Aesthetics:
 A Handbook for Scenery Management. U.S. Forest
 Service, Agricultural Handbook No. 701, Glossary-6.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A

AB	Assembly Bill
Ac	acre
ADT	average daily traffic
AFB	Air Force Base
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
APE	area of potential effect
Authority	California High Speed Rail Authority

B

BP	years before present
Btu	British thermal unit

C

CAA	Clean Air Act of 1970
Cal-ISO	California Independent State Operator
CalOSHA	state Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCAA	California's Clean Air Act
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
cm	centimeters
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO2	carbon dioxide
Commission	California Intercity High Speed Rail Commission
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CWA	federal Clean Water Act

D

dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DOF	California Department of Finance
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control

E

EIR	environmental impact report
EIS	environmental impact statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	federal Endangered Species Act

F

FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
ft	feet
FTA	Federal Transit Administration

G

gal	gallons
GAP	California Gap Analysis Program
GIS	geographic information systems
GPI	greatest potential impact
GSP	gross state product
GWh	gigawatt-hours

H

ha	hectare
HC	hydrocarbons
HCP	habitat conservation plan
HOV	high-occupancy-vehicle
hrs	hours

I

I-5	Interstate 5
in	inch
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
ITS	intelligent transportation system

K

Km	kilometers
kpg	kilometers per gallon
kph	kilometers per hour
kV	kilovolts

L

L	liters
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Ldn	day-night average level
LEDPA	least environmentally damaging practicable alternative
Leq	equivalent noise level
LESA	Land Evaluation and Site Assessment
LEV	low emission vehicle
Lmax	Maximum Sound Level
LOS	level of service
LOSSAN	Los Angeles–Orange County–San Diego
LPI	least potential impacts
LUSTs	leaking underground storage tanks

M

m	meters
MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
mi	miles
min	minutes
MMBtus	million Btus
MOA	memorandum of agreement
MOU	memorandum of understanding
mpg	miles per gallon
mph	miles per hour
MPOs	Metropolitan Planning Organizations
MSCP	Multiple Species Conservation Program
MSHCP	Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plans
MTDB	Metropolitan Transit Development Board
MW	megawatt

N

NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCCP	natural community conservation plan
NCRS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NCTD	North County Transit District
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHRP	National Register of Historic Places
NO	nitric oxide
No Project	No Project/No Action
NO2	nitrogen dioxide

NOI	notice of intent
NOP	notice of preparation
NOx	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetland Inventory

O

O&M	operations and maintenance
O3	ozone
OSHA	federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration

P

P.L.	Public Law
Pb	lead
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
PM10	particulate matter 10 microns in diameter or less
PM2.5	particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter or less
PMT	passenger miles traveled
Program EIR/EIS	Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

R

ROG	reactive organic gases
RTP	regional transportation plan
RTPAs	regional transportation planning agencies
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board

S

SANDAG	San Diego Association of Governments
SB	Senate Bill
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCE	Southern California Edison
SCG	Southern California Gas
SCR-6	Senate Concurrent Resolution 6
SDG&E	San Diego Gas and Electric Company
SFHA	special flood hazard area
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIP	state implementation plan
SO2	sulfur dioxide
SO3	sulfur trioxide
SOx	sulfur oxides
SP	Southern Pacific
sq km	square kilometers
sq mi	square miles
SR-14	State Route 14
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program
SUVs	sport utility vehicles

SWLF	solid waste landfill
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board

T

TCU	transportation, communications, and utilities
TDRs	time domain reflectometers
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
TGV	Train à Grande Vitesse
TMDLs	total maximum daily loads
TOG	total organic gases
TSM	Transportation System Management

U

UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UTC	University Towne Centre

V

V/C	volume-to-capacity
VHT	vehicle hours traveled
VKT	vehicle kilometers traveled
VMT	vehicle miles traveled

W

WAPA	Western Area Power Administration
------	-----------------------------------

